

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing disposable sanitary napkins intended to be worn in undergarments of users, each sanitary napkin having a main body that comprises an absorbent system, the main body including a pair of mutually opposite sides and at least one flap projecting from one of said mutually opposite sides, said method comprising:
 - a) providing a continuous web having a longitudinal axis and at least two superposed layers;
 - b) bonding said superposed layers to form an area of juncture on said continuous web, said area of juncture defining a cyclic pattern and extending along said longitudinal axis;
 - c) severing said continuous web within said area of juncture to form two strips, each strip having:
 - i) a plurality of projecting portions in a spaced apart relationship;
 - ii) at least one attachment portion between each of said projecting portions that unite said projecting portions to one another;
 - d) providing a succession of absorbent systems;
 - e) advancing at least one of said strips and said succession of absorbent systems along respective paths that converge toward one another;
 - f) securing respective projecting portions of said one strip to respective absorbent systems of said succession;
 - g) cutting transversally said at least one strip between absorbent systems of said succession to sever the attachment portions between the projecting portions of said one strip;
 - h) providing a third strip, said third strip having a plurality of projecting

portions in a spaced apart relationship and at least one attachment portion between each of said projecting portions that unite said projecting portions to one another; and

- i) securing the projecting portions of said third strip to respective absorbent systems of said succession before the cutting such that the projecting portions of said third strip at least partially overlap the projecting portions of either one of said first and second strips.
2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said main body is a multi-layer structure.
3. (Original) A method as described in claim 2, wherein said main body includes a fluid-pervious layer overlying said absorbent system, said fluid-pervious layer being oriented toward the user when the disposable sanitary napkin is in use.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein said main body further includes a liquid-impervious layer underlying said absorbent system, said liquid-impervious layer being oriented toward the undergarment of the user when the disposable sanitary napkin is in use.
5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein said projection portions of said at least one strip are secured to said fluid-pervious layer.
6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said projection portions of said at least one strip are secured to said liquid-impervious layer.
7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said projecting portions of said one strip are secured to said fluid-pervious layer and said liquid-impervious layer.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising applying adhesive fasteners before the severing of said continuous web.
9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said projecting portions of said two strips are secured to respective absorbent systems of said succession.
10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said plurality of projection portions are transversely projecting.
11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the securing is performed such that one absorbent body is secured in association a projecting portion from each of said strips formed from said continuous web.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the layers of said continuous web are of substantially identical widths.
15. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the layers of said continuous web are of substantially differing widths.
- 16.-25. (Canceled)
26. (New) A method for manufacturing disposable sanitary napkins intended to be worn in undergarments of users, each sanitary napkin having a main body that comprises an absorbent system, the main body including a pair of mutually opposite sides and at least one flap projecting from one of said mutually opposite sides, said method comprising:
 - a) providing a continuous web having a longitudinal axis and at least two superposed layers;

- b) bonding said superposed layers to form an area of juncture on said continuous web, said area of juncture defining a cyclic pattern and extending along said longitudinal axis;
- c) severing said continuous web within said area of juncture to form two strips, each strip having:
 - i) a plurality of projecting portions in a spaced apart relationship;
 - ii) at least one attachment portion between each of said projecting portions that unite said projecting portions to one another;
- d) providing a succession of absorbent systems;
- e) advancing at least one of said strips and said succession of absorbent systems along respective paths that converge toward one another;
- f) securing respective projecting portions of said one strip to respective absorbent systems of said succession;
- g) cutting transversally said at least one strip between absorbent systems of said succession to sever the attachment portions between the projecting portions of said one strip;
- h) providing a third strip, said third strip having a plurality of projecting portions in a spaced apart relationship and at least one attachment portion between each of said projecting portions that unite said projecting portions to one another; and
- i) securing the projecting portions of said third strip to respective absorbent systems of said succession before the cutting such that the projecting portions of said third strip are spaced apart from the projecting portions of either one of said first and second strips.

27. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein said main body is a multi-layer structure.

28. (New) A method as described in claim 27, wherein said main body includes a fluid-pervious layer overlying said absorbent system, said fluid-pervious layer being oriented toward the user when the disposable sanitary napkin is in use.

29. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said main body further includes a liquid-impervious layer underlying said absorbent system, said liquid-impervious layer being oriented toward the undergarment of the user when the disposable sanitary napkin is in use.

30. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said projection portions of said at least one strip are secured to said fluid-pervious layer.

31. (New) A method as defined in claim 29, wherein said projection portions of said at least one strip are secured to said liquid-impervious layer.

32. (New) A method as defined in claim 29, wherein said projecting portions of said one strip are secured to said fluid-pervious layer and said liquid-impervious layer.

33. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, further comprising applying adhesive fasteners before the severing of said continuous web.

34. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein said projecting portions of said two strips are secured to respective absorbent systems of said succession.

35. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein said plurality of projection portions are transversely projecting.

36. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein the securing is performed such that one absorbent body is secured in association a projecting portion from each of said strips formed from said continuous web.

37. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein the layers of said continuous web are of substantially identical widths.

38. (New) A method as defined in claim 26, wherein the layers of said continuous web are of substantially differing widths.